

Tapu'itea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT NEWSLETTER

The American Samoa Boys and Girls Club Center Officially Opens

"Today is a day to rejoice and celebrate. . ." was the opening phrase in the First Lady Mary Ann Taufā'asau Tulafono's remarks at the official opening of the Boys and Girls Club of American Samoa in Tafuna today.

Traditional salutations were given by HTC Lealao M. Purcell and welcoming remarks were by the Executive Director of the American Samoa Boys and Girls Club, HC Tupua Roy Fua.

The guest speaker was the Honorable Governor Togiola T.A. Tulafono, who thanked all the supporters in the community and government who helped bring the First Lady's vision to life. He especially acknowledged the US Army for relinquishing their 10 year contract of the old PX building, so that the American Samoa Boys and Girls Club may have a building



to operate under.

According to the First Lady, the local club has 140 members already-- that range from the ages of 6-18. The Club will offer them a variety of academic programs that will prepare them for college and successful profes-

sional careers. Moreover, the club in partnership with the American Samoa Community College Gear Up Program, will provide the club members with quality educational programs.

The Mission of the Boys and Girls Club is: "To inspire and

enable young people, especially those who need us the most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens." For more information please visit the Boys and Girls Club at <http://www.bgcas.org/>.

51 Government Employees Graduate with Master of Arts Degrees From San Diego State University



A total of 51 graduates for the San Diego State University Cohort program walked into the Lee Auditorium to a powerful ballad sung by Celine Dion and written by Maria Erving, called "The Power of the Dream. . ." Family, friends, guests, and government officials looked on proudly as the graduates proceeded to their individual seats. Out of the 51 graduates, 27 graduated with

Masters of Arts in Education Leadership with Emphasis in Public Administration and Human Resource Development, and 24 graduated with Masters of Arts in Education with Emphasis in Curriculum and Instruction. According to the Master of Ceremony HTC Fofu I. F. Sunia, the Education program was funded by ARRA and Federal Grants,

(Continued on page 7)

A TRIBUTE...



American Samoa Flag

Gov. Togiola Tulafono paid tribute to Reverend Unifareti Rapi Sotoa, the man who designed American Samoa's flag, who was laid to rest on Friday July 6, 2012. In a General Memorandum, Gov. Togiola said "in remembrance of Rev. Unifareti...the Territorial flag shall be used in his funeral services...As the man who created the local banner which flies over our Tutuila and Manu'a, this order is highly appropriate," Gov. Togiola said "Reverend Fareti, as he was known to friends, was a wise figure full of compassion and humility. His love for his family, church and Territory endure in the hearts of those whose lives he touched. For this, and for being the father of our local flag, we honor his memory."

*"O se malo e tapena lelei
ona tagata faigaluega, o se
malo mautu, o se malo
malosi..."*

*~ Governor Togiola
Tulafono*

Department of Agriculture Hosts the 2012 Territory Farm Fair

The Department of Agriculture under the direction of Lealaō Melila Purcell, with the support of Governor Togiola Tulafono, other government agencies, and the business community, is hosting a territory farm fair that highlights the local farmers and various crops grown on our own American Samoa.

The fair started today July 25th to tomorrow July 26th 2012. According to the Chief Extension Officer of DOA, Mr. Manu Tuionoula, ninety local farmers registered for the event, but when the fair started today, more farmers registered bringing their total to a hundred plus. "It is wonderful to see that our people are still relying on agriculture as a resource. . ." Mr. Tuionoula said. Judging will start from 6pm-7pm tonight, and the winner will be announced tomorrow during the official fair ceremony. According to the CEO of DOA, the department has an approved budget of \$40,000 that will provide prizes for the

winners, along with donations from the Chamber of Commerce, and the business community that will assist with consolation prizes.

Land Grant, and assistance from the Independent State of Samoa; new and parasite resistant taro crops have resulted—restoring one of American



Among the many crops at the fair, a phenomenal number of different breeds of taro were being displayed by various farmers. DOA reported that the taro crop has come a long way since the fungal blight that decimated the plant in 1994 and affected the territory's revenues significantly. Thanks to the many breeding efforts of the Department of Agriculture,

Samoa's much needed resource.

The Territory Farm Fair is definitely one of the government places of interest this year. It is the goal of the Department of Agriculture to promote agricultural production in our island and to encourage the public to continue to support our local farmers and products.

The Department of Education Kicks-off Another School Year with an Awesome General Assembly. . .



The Tafuna High School Gymnasium was packed with over a 1,000 Department of Education employees today, to kick off the 2012-2013 school year with a general assembly. As the employees awaited the assembly to start, the gymnasium echoed a harmonious sound

of singing and laughter, as the attendees sing the traditional Samoan Teacher's Anthem.

The Assembly officially started with the posting of colors by the Tafuna JROTC and opening remarks by Alailotoo Seumalo. Opening hymn was sung by the Nuuli Methodist Choir,

and opening prayer was rendered by Reverend Feleti Seve, also from the Nu'uuli Methodist Church.

Special remarks were given by the Director Designee, Dr. Jacinta Galeai. She spoke of a number of incentives that the Department of Education was working on implementing this school year—and one in particular, was that every school in American Samoa must apply the Common Core State Standards in their classrooms. This plan emphasizes an organized list of expectations of what students are expected to learn while in the classroom. These standards were formulated by

(Continued on page 7)

Governor Togiola appoints new Parole Board

Gov. Togiola Tulafono on June 26, 2012 appointed a new Parole Board. The Board now consists of Rev. Ned Ripley, Ipu Lefti, Uso Lago'o, Tauai Suiaunua and Charlie Togiola.

In accordance with statute, each appointed member shall serve an indefinite term and the

Board shall select a chairperson. Each member of the Parole Board shall continue to serve until his or her successor is duly qualified and appointed by the Governor.

"I thank the sitting members of the Parole Board for their years of service in their ap-

pointments and remove from them their appointments to the Board and their attendant duties," said Gov. Togiola. "I am confident in the abilities of these new appointees to carry out the statutory duties of the Parole Board."

Mana'o le Afioga i le Kovana Sili ia Togiola ina ia fa'aleaogaina le sala tu'uoti; "aua ne'i tau'i le oti i le oti. . . e le 'o se mea sa'o. . ."

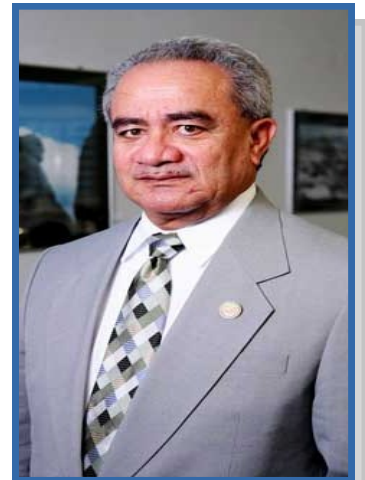
I le taimi nei, o lo'o malaga atu le ali'i Kovana o Togiola i se fonotaga mo iloilogaga o tulafono tau a'oa'oga a malo i le sitete o Georgia, ma o lo 'ua fa'apea mai ia o se taimi lelei lea e fa'aulu ai sona manatu e fa'aleaogaina ai le sala tu'uoti i totonu o Amerika Samoa.

Na fa'apea le ali'i Kovana i lana talanoaga ma le fale fa'asalalau o le KHJ/V103, ua

mae'a ona ia fa'atonuina le ofisa a le loia sili ina ia aua ne'i fa'aaauina le latou sa'ilia o le fa'asalaga tu'uoti mo le fa'amasinoga a le ua tuuaia o Siaumau Siauma Jr.,

Talitonu le ta'ita'i o le tatou malo; muamua, o le pasia o le sala tu'uoti i le tatou malo e le 'o se tulaga tatau, e tatau ona tatou silasila toto'a i la tatou talitonuga fa'akerisiano, ma e

le sa'o lava le taumafai o se malo e fasioti a latou tagatanu'u ona ua le mulimulita'i i se tulafono. Lona lua, o lo 'o ta'ua e le tulafono le iai o le fa'asalaga oti, ae e aunoa ma se auala e fa'atino ai le fa'asalaga; e fa'aata mai ina e le 'o mautu le tulafono ma e le tatau ona fa'aaogaina.



Honorable Governor
Togiola T.A. Tulafono

*"aua ne'i tau'i le oti i le oti.
.. e le 'o se mea sa'o. . ."*

*~ Governor Togiola
Tulafono*



**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

Gov. Togiola thanks US Labor Department for \$500K to continue job program for tsunami recovery crew

Governor Togiola Tulafono announced June 27, 2012 that the U.S. Department of Labor has awarded a \$500,000 National Emergency Grant supplement to continue re-employment and training services for workers who were hired on a temporary basis to help with cleanup and recovery efforts in the wake of the tsunami that struck American Samoa in September 2009.

Governor Togiola said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training, in announcing the award, said the

additional federal funding will enable American Samoa to continue providing training and re-employment services to the workers who assisted with the cleanup and recovery efforts after the worst disaster in American Samoa history. The services provided through this grant will help hardworking individuals find permanent employment.

"I wish to express our sincere gratitude to Labor Secretary Hilda Solis and Assistant Secretary Jane Oates and the de-

partment for this much-needed boost in funds to assist in our employment and training services efforts," said Governor Togiola. "As we continue in our employment recovery efforts from the earthquake and tsunami, we are very thankful for this additional funding; it is critical resources to help us out as it will help our people stay prepared in getting jobs. The disaster made a major impact on our families and our workforce and we thank the U.S. Department of Labor for the

(Continued on page 4)



ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With : Governor
Togiola Tulafono
On : KSBS FM 92.1
Saturdays @ 7:30am

IFA MAI

What Government Office do you enjoy visiting and why?



Name: Peka Te'o

Village: Pago Pago

Answer: "Oute fiafia tele i le ofisa a le Loia Sili, fa'apea le vaega a le Immigration ma le DOC, ona e agalelei toe tamali'i tagata o lo'o faigaluega ai. E loto feasoasoani fo'i i tagata, ona e va'ai mai loa ua tu atu le tagata, vave ona fesili mai pe mana'omia le fesoasoani. O ni ofisa o lo'o tautua ma le fia fesoasoani i le atunu'u."

Gov. Togiola thanks US Labor Department (Cont'd)

NEG because it was designed for the kinds of emergency and situation that we have experienced. I would also like to thank our Director of Human Resources – Evelyn Vaitautolu Langford and her staff for administering program and for all the hardwork that went into securing these funds to continue the training of our program participants."

The Labor Department approved a grant of up to \$24,857,608 to the American Samoa Department of Human Resources on October 19, 2009, with \$8,285,870 released initially, to fund temporary jobs for individuals to assist with cleanup and recovery efforts. On April 21, 2010, incremental funding of \$16,571,738 from the same grant was awarded to

continue funding the temporary jobs as well as to provide workforce development services to the workers to help them transition to unsubsidized employment once the cleanup jobs ended. The jobs have now ended. Today's supplemental funding to continue services brings the total funds awarded to date to \$25,357,608.



Governor Togiola Tulafono at Summer National Governors Association meeting July 13-15 in Williamsburg, Virginia

Tatala le auala fou a Ofu ma Olosega

Ua tatala aloia nei le auala fou i Ofu ma Olosega, lea ua atoa le 9 tausaga talu ona fausia. O le auala e amata mai Ofu se 'ia paia Olosega, ma ua fa'afai-gofieina ai fo'i feoa'iga a tagata o lo'o nonofo i nei motu, fa'apea tagata e asiasi atu iai.

Saunoa le Ali'i Kovana, e pe a ma le \$564,775.44 le seleni na fa'aaoga e fa'atino ai le galuega, ma o se fiafiaga sili, ua mae'a le galuega sa fau ao ma fau po. Sa momoli fo'i le fa'afetai tele a le Kovana i e sa

gafa ma le fa'atinoina o lenei galuega.



Prehistoric Stone Features and World War II Artifacts Discovered In American Samoan Village *by Florence Aetonu-Teo*



Prehistoric grinding stone at Afao



World War II Fortification at Afao



Unique Prehistoric Stone Feature at Afao

Territorial Archaeologist for American Samoa, Dr. Joel Klenck, has discovered prehistoric stone features and World War II inscriptions on the coast at Afao, a village in American Samoa, during a reconnaissance archaeological survey in June of 2012. The historic features are located on the southwest coast of Tutuila, the largest island of American Samoa. The survey was conducted to keep an U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's shoreline revetment project in compliance with a federal historic preservation law known as the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The Act requires that all federally funded projects take historic and archaeological sites into account by recording and avoiding damage to those sites whenever possible. The American Samoa Coastal Zone Management Act of 1990 also requires that construction projects in Territory be conducted in a manner to protect historic, cultural, and archaeological sites. Some of the inscriptions from Afao appear to be from World War II as evidenced by their proximity to a Marine Corps camp during this era, two defensive fortifications at the site, subject matter of the inscriptions and the testimony of local villagers. The inscriptions from World War II were carved into a naturally occurring flat rock that was undercut by beach erosion. This basaltic promontory collapsed and was subject to further wave activity.

Due to these environmental processes some of the inscriptions are barely visible while others portray clearer verbiage. According to the villagers from Afao, the inscriptions are from World War II. In addition, World War II maps indicate that units of the 7th Marine Division bivouacked in Asili, the adjacent town less than a mile away from Afao. Further, two pill boxes from World War II are evidenced in this area. Inscriptions appear in the rocks in close proximity to the pill boxes and denote "USMC" [United States Marine Corps], a construction company and other verbiage. Several grinding stones at Afao utilized by the early inhabitants of American Samoa are similar to those found at other sites with dates from prehistoric Samoan periods. One grinding stone, however, is unique and evidences a tripartite design that has not been reported in other South Pacific cultures. The function of the feature is unknown and various suggestions have been proffered including that the specimen might represent a "birthing stone", by Felicia Beardsley, a professor of anthropology from the University of Laverne. David Herdrich, the Director of the Historic Preservation Office of American Samoa, states, "A maternity stone is a possibility. At least one Samoan legend mentions a woman giving birth to a culture hero on a stone near the coast. However, before we

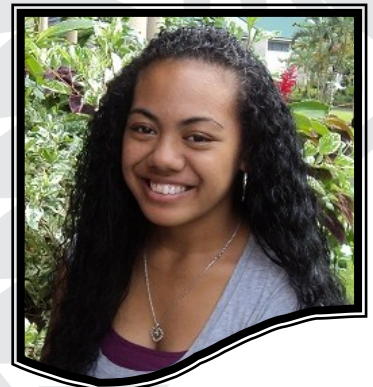
tender assertions we must look for other archaeological parallels to explain the function of this unique feature." The World War II pill boxes Tutuila are tactically placed with one located directly in the center of the beach and the other positioned to the east further away from the coastline in heavy vegetation. The placement of these fortifications would have permitted cross fires on attacking enemy and a mutual defense along an expanse of shoreline that was very shallow at low tide. During World War II, Japanese landing craft would be blocked by the sudden elevation of the basaltic shelf several hundred meters from the shoreline and would then face weapons fire from one visible fortification and then another well-hidden pillbox toward the eastern edge of the shore. Herdrich adds, "The excellent preservation of the defensive fortifications, which remain in their original positions, provides compelling evidence for the characteristics and tactical considerations of Marine Corps and Navy defensive structures during World War II." The Afao site is partly enveloped by thick vegetation, leaf litter and canopy that most likely covered the area during World War II. The site incorporates a blending of ecological zones from a barren rocky coastline with large sand granules to a mixed disturbed upland forest consisting primarily of tropical plant life.



Name: Maria Vatumoto

Village: Tafuna

Answer: "I enjoy visiting the Immigration Office—they help out with paperwork, answer my questions about what I need."



Name: Brenda Faith Fa'afua Tauese Foleni

Village: Amouli

Answer: "I like the Department of Commerce; because they deal with a lot of Samoan projects and festivities . . . they deal more with the public."

Marine & Wildlife Resource

Director Ufagafa Ray Tulafono

The Department of Marine and Wildlife recently collected otoliths and gonads for age-and-growth and reproduction cycle analysis of 10 important



commercial fish species in the Territory of the following species from the spearfishing catch: *Sargocentron tiera*, *Myripristis berndti*, *Myripristis murdjan*, *Myripristis amaena*, *Naso unicornis*, *Scarus rubroviolaceus* and *Sargocentron spiniferum*; and for bottomfishing catch: *Lutjanus gibbus*, *Lethrinus xanthochilus*, and *Lutjanus rufolineatus*.

SHARE IMPORTANT ACTIVIITES

with our ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information at tapuilea@as.gov

HISTORICAL NOTES:

On August 15, 1830, John Williams and his shipmates aboard the Olive Branch sighted Savai'i.

On August 15, 1943, Eni Fa'auaa Hunkin (later Eni F.H. Faleomavaega), American Samoa's Lieutenant Governor (1985-1989) and Congressional Delegate since 1989, was born "at the outskirts of the village of Vailoatai, Tutuila."

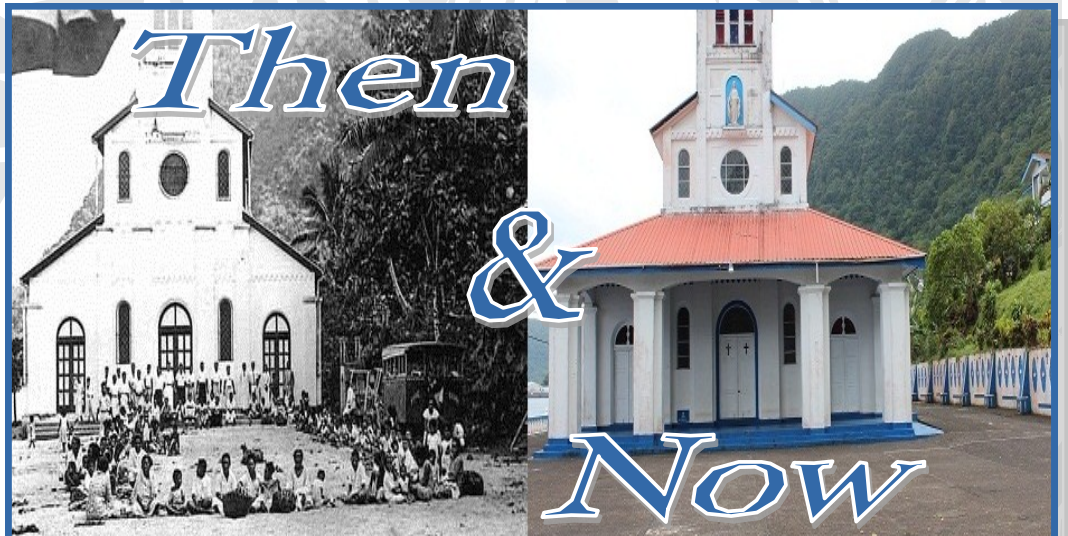
On August 15, 1945, the U.S. Marine Corps Barracks, Tutuila, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel E.D. Dunkle, was closed.

On August 15, 1989, Earl Baker Ruth, 46th Governor of American Samoa (February 6, 1975-September 30, 1976) passed away in Salisbury, North Carolina.



Eni Fa'auaa Hunkin

Lepua Church



51 Government Employees (Cont'd)

while the Public Administration Program was funded by the American Samoa Government.

The guest list included the Honorable Governor Togiola Tulafono who addressed the graduates highlighting the importance of education and how their graduation today is one of

the happiest moments of his tenure as Governor of American Samoa. The Governor also thanked the graduates families and friends for their sacrifice in helping achieve their loved ones academic goals. The Governor was also presented with a certificate of recognition for the government's support by the

graduating class.

Dr. Theresa Lally who is the Program Coordinator and Instructor for the University of San Diego presented the graduates to Dr. Jacinta Galea'i for acceptance. Below is a list of the successful graduates. Congratulations!

MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION LEADERSHIP WITH EMPHASIS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Aneani Atanua | - Audit Office |
| 2. Benjamin Tili | - ASDOE |
| 3. Brian Thompson | - ASDOE |
| 4. Carolina Galea'i | - ASDOE |
| 5. Catherine Agamaua Saclua | - Budget Office |
| 6. Divine Tuli Faleanilo | - Attorney General's Office |
| 7. Famao Analele | - EPA |
| 8. Florence Viona-Ainu'u | - Human & Social Services |
| 9. Heidi Minnie Savali Leasialagi | - Treasury |
| 10. Joseph Pereira | - Legislative Branch |
| 11. Kim Situmau McFall | - ASDOE |
| 12. Liza Fatucui | - Audit Office |
| 13. Luapou Maas | - ASDOE |
| 14. Magdalene A. Leauanae | - ASDOE |
| 15. Makorita J. Inose | - Governor's Office |
| 16. Mara Leialo-Brown | - Public Safety |
| 17. Matagimale Nuuva-Tasia | - ASGC |
| 18. Matelasi Lolo Maliga | - Private |
| 19. Pulei Palapoti Maua | - Legislative Branch |
| 20. Puatani Pulu | - ASDOE |
| 21. Roy Auaga | - Youth & Women's Affairs |
| 22. Ruth S. Matagi | - Development Bank |
| 23. Salote Auelua Fanene | - ASDOE |
| 24. Samuelo Tui | - Homeland Security |
| 25. Tina Va'a | - Marine & Wildlife |
| 26. Uli Leauanae | - Department of Commerce |
| 27. Vincent Tuli | - Governor's Office |

MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION WITH EMPHASIS IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION



- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Afainisi J. Multalo | - FAS |
| 2. Ana Apia | - NPTAS |
| 3. Esela Fuimaono | - LPS |
| 4. Fa'afetai J. To'fita | - FAS |
| 5. Fa'auga Ma'anaina | - Mandale Elementary |
| 6. Fa'apuala J. Mado | - FAS |
| 7. Fa'asalaga Ikonasio | - Leone Midkiff Elementary |
| 8. Jane Auatasi-Lang | - Coleman Elementary |
| 9. Lipona T. Asotau | - Pavaiai Elementary |
| 10. Lusiaua Tagaloa | - MAS |
| 11. Mariposa Te'o | - Leone Midkiff Elementary |
| 12. Moana A. Vaiananu | - Leone Midkiff Elementary |
| 13. Pati Pati | - LPS |
| 14. Rodney Jensen | - Tafuna Elementary |
| 15. Rose Auua'a | - FAS |
| 16. Rose Spitzenberg | - Laili Elementary |
| 17. Salamasiua T. Schuster | - SPS |
| 18. Sherone D. Tapuai | - Lupolele Elementary |
| 19. Tala'i Gago | - Faleasao Elementary |
| 20. Talosia E. Upocosa | - SPS |
| 21. Tualo L. Tautala | - Laili Elementary |
| 22. Maria T. Finau | - Tafuna Elementary |
| 23. Valasi Lam Yuen | - FAS |
| 24. Vicki A. Jaulo | - Pavaiai Elementary |

Contest



Send us a photo of your best American Samoa scenery at tapuitea@as.gov.

Please include the name of the photographer and the location of the scenery.

The winning photograph and photographer will be featured on our upcoming issue.

Help us showcase the beauty of our island.

TAPUITEA

THE OFFICIAL
GOVERNMENT
VOICE



The Department of Education Kicks-off Another School Year (Cont'd)

different states in the mainland to assist in setting up the students for progressive success in their academic careers. Moreover, the standards will focus on core subjects such as, Mathematics, English and Science.

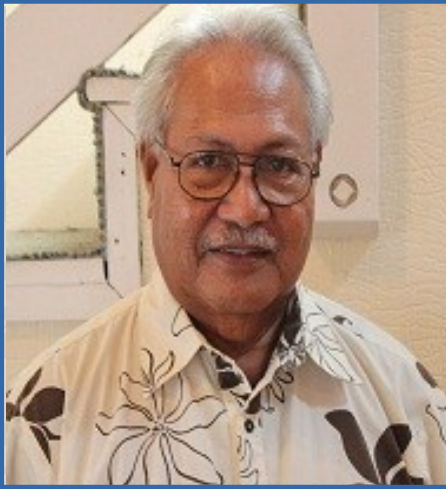
Dr. Galeai also touched basis on reviewing the current cohort program with the University of Hawaii and how it has

been an ongoing success with the educators of the territory. She stated that the program has graduated over 500 Bachelors of Arts in Elementary Education, but strives to address a program that will offer Bachelors of Arts in specific studies, such as Math, Science, and English. "These programs will also help the upper levels in

our schools. . ." said Dr. Galeai.

Special guests who also gave remarks were Acting Governor Honorable Fepuleai Ripley, and Teacher of the Year, Ms. Lita Timoteo. Special Recognition was presented to Mr. Donald Mataese for the US Territory's History Teacher of the Year Award.

O LOU MALO



MEDICAID

Ever wonder how and why American Samoa healthcare costs stay affordable? "It is the mission of the Medicaid Program to assure that federal Medicaid funds are utilized in a manner which provides the greater possible benefits for the Medicaid population in the Territory and to do so in a manner consistent with the federal guidelines." This is the mission statement of the Medicaid Office of American Samoa, who is currently the recent member of the Medicaid family since 1984.

*The local Medicaid Office is under the direction of **HTC Niuatoa Andy Puleasi** with a support staff of four. According to the director, he is currently working to hire more staff to meet the need created by additional duties and responsibilities.*

One most important service that the Medicaid Office provides is that it works to keep Medicaid funding flowing into the Territory so that the people of American Samoa are able to get health care when needed. To do this, Niuatoa and his hardworking staff work consistently to uphold the federally approved State Plan that supports the contract between the American Samoa Government and the Federal Government on the condition that—as quality health care is provided to the eligible individuals, it is by policy that the federal government compensates the health providers that provide it.

Furthermore, the office currently has the following federal funding programs and projects (a) the federal medical assistance program (FMAP) that brings \$ 9.5 million; (b) affordable care act (ACA) that provides \$6.9 million; (c) the children health insurance program (CHIP) with federal funding of \$ 1.2 million; (d) the Part-D Prescription program with \$260,596; (e) the Health Information Technology Project (HIT) that brings \$269,000--putting together a total of \$18.1 million, that the Federal Government has awarded to the Territory's Medicaid this fiscal year. All these programs are structured to fulfill the healthcare needs of the people of American Samoa.

In addition, according to Director Niuatoa, the office has a few action plans for FY 2012-FY 2013. First, the Office continues to update the State Plan in order to be consistent with the current practice of Medicaid in the Territory. The proposed plan amendment is currently under review by CMS to allow reimbursement for claims by providers outside of LBJ Tropical Medical Center. Approval of the amendment by CMS is expected by the end of September 2012. Another plan amendment will be prepared and submitted to allow Medicaid Office to reimburse LBJ Hospital for the costs incurred in patient referral to certified facilities in foreign countries such as New Zealand, Australia, and the Philippines. Second, Medicaid Office in collaboration with the University of Hawaii, will develop a Medicaid Health Information Technology Plan (SMHP) that will state the Territory's approach to implementing the Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program, that will allow the payment of incentives to eligible professionals and eligible hospitals for the adoption and meaningful use of certified electronic health record technology to improve patient health care and safety.

ASTCA Executive
Office Building in
Tafuna
3rd Floor

Phone: 699-4818/4036
E-mail:
dianne.leomiti@go.as.gov

